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fact, the poll-tax was rarely imposed in that country, and when it was, it was a graded one. The Virginia legislators must have had some good reason for adopting a system foreign to their mother country. If the majority of the people had desired a change they could have affected it. Prior to 1654-5, the right of suffrage embraced every freeman; and with the power of electing the Burgesses, they would have required a change, if they had desired it, very earnestly. We must remember that most of the people were farmers, and hence would have been affected by any tax upon land. And we must also remember that the extreme cheapness of land tended to prevent any tax from being laid upon it. When we also remember that the owners of the large farms had to pay the poll-taxes assessed upon their slaves, we will find that the tax was not very unequally laid. Another recommendation was in its simplicity. With these reasons before them we can understand why a house of Burgesses, elected by universal suffrage among all freemen, should have held on to that system of taxation.

We cannot lengthen this notice of Mr. Ripley's book, except to say that we must advise any one desiring accurate information as to the finances of Colonial Virginia, to look for it elsewhere.

M.

THE HEAD OF A HUNDRED—By Maud Wilder Goodwin. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, Mass.

We welcome every sincere attempt to show the children of Virginia what folk their fathers were. When romance is true to the soul of facts, its service to history is greater than its debt. In this book the writer or editor, as she is styled, introduces her hero, Humphrey Huntoon, on his arrival at Point Comfort, Virginia, soon after its settlement. He is a young physician from the old country, seeking his fortune in the new world. The heroine of the story, Elizabeth Romney was safely distanced, so Huntoon imagined by his journey to America, but his memory carried with him, the "rooted sorrow" of her scornful refusal of his suit. They had been neighbors from childhood and were lovers in their teens. But ambition had jilted love, as not uncommonly happens, and we meet our hero at Point Comfort, wearing a very rueful face and seemingly with little comfort before him. But love has a wit of her own, and Mistress Betty Romney herself makes the voyage to America a few months later, to escape from the worldly marriage her father had arranged for her.

To give the incidents of the life of these two people in and around Jamestown would be to tell in brief and poorly what the author has told at some length and well. We do not find ourselves conversing, as it were, with the early settlers of Virginia, or learning, better than did the actors

themselves in this planting of a new nation, what a work they had in hand. The man who can restore primitive Virginia as Hawthorne has done for the settlers in Massachusetts Bay, has not been born. But the reader of this book will find pleasant sailing on the Chesapeake and the James, and an adumbration of the past, if not a revelation of it. The story is autobiographical and, therefore, partakes of the style of the times it depicts and also of the character of the narrator. While this gives a fitting antiquity to the former, may we not say without offense, that it derives more or less dulness from the latter? Humphrey Huntoon is such a born prig that his journal of meditations, events, hopes and fears, shares the dryness of his personality. The only redeeming touch of unpremeditated manhood we find in him, is where he thrashed a man in the street for insulting his lady, and in his defense of the settlement at Flower de Hundred. It is plain to be seen, all through this curious courtship between Humphrey Huntoon and Betty Romney, that the latter is the better man of the two.

However, our task of critic is not concerned so much with the characters as with the purely literary and historical work of this book, and we gladly bear tribute to the nicety and care of the former, and so far as our knowledge extends to the probability of the latter.

G. L. C.

**HISTORY OF THE RICHMOND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**—with Reminiscences of thirty years' work among the colored people of the South. By Charles H. Corey, President of Richmond Theological Seminary; with an introduction by W. W. Landrum, D. D., pp. 240. Richmond, Va., J. W. Randolph Company, 1895.

We heartily recommend Dr. Corey's volume to all who are interested in the history of the African race in the South since the close of the late war. It is a very instructive and valuable record of devoted and successful service for the improvement of the moral condition of the negro, and has an importance and significance far beyond the institution and community of which it specially treats. It is pleasant to note that Dr. Corey bears witness to the local interest which has been felt in his work, an interest not confined to his own religious denomination. This interest is certain to increase, as the good fruit of the labors of such men and their pupils becomes more and more manifest.

**LOWER NORFOLK COUNTY VIRGINIA ANTIQUARY**.—No. 1, Part I, pp. 36. Edited and owned by Edward W. James, Richmond, Va., 1895.

In his brief preface, Mr. Edward W. James, who has already won a distinguished position among students of Virginia history, announces that his new publication is "intended for the purpose of making known